NGATI TUMATAUENGA

ANZAC DAY

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

FORT LEAVENWORTH

25 APRIL 2009

The Australian Army Officers of Fort Leavenworth extend an invitation to the Service and Veteran Communities to observe the ANZAC Day Dawn Service in solemn remembrance of the fallen ANZACs

at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery on Saturday 25 April 2009 commencing at 6.00AM.

Observers wishing to lay a floral tribute in remembrance will be invited to do so during the Service. Assemble from 5.40AM. Service will be complete by 7.00AM.

'Lest We Forget'

Dress: Class A Uniform or Civilian Equivalent

RSVP: Lieutenant Colonel Craig Burn

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The acronym ANZAC became famous with the landing of the Corps on the Gallipoli Peninsula at the Dardanelles on 25 April 1915. It has since become synonymous with the determination and spirit of our armed forces. The significance of the day, and the acronym, in Australia's heritage is probably best stated by Dr. Bean in the following excerpt from his official war history:

It was not merely that 7600 Australians and nearly 2500 New Zealanders had been killed or mortally wounded there, and 24,000 more had been wounded, while fewer than 100 were prisoners. But the standards set by the first companies at the first call - by the stretcher-bearers, the medical officers, the staff, the company leaders, the privates, the defaulters on the water barges, the Light Horse at The Nek - this was already part of the tradition not only of ANZAC but of the Australian and New Zealand peoples. By dawn on 20 December 1915, ANZAC had faded into a dim blue line lost amid other hills on the horizon as the ships took their human freight to Imbros, Lemnos and Egypt. But ANZAC stood, and still stands, for reckless valor in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship and endurance that will never own defeat.

The acronym survived Gallipoli. Both the I and II ANZAC Corps fought in France and the ANZAC Mounted Division fought in Palestine. The decision to separate the Australian and New Zealand components of the ANZAC Corps was taken on 14 November 1917 when it was announced that the Corps would cease to exist from January 1918. An Australian Corps was then created to absorb the Australian divisions. There was a brief period during World War 2 when ANZAC was resurrected. On 12 April 1941 in Greece, General Blamey declared I Australian Corps to be the ANZAC Corps, much to the delight of its Australian and New Zealand formations.

ANZAC was again revived during the Vietnam war where, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, an ANZAC battalion served in Phuoc Tuy Province. These battalions were created by absorbing two companies and supporting elements from The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment into a battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR). In the peace keeping operation in East Timor in 1999 and 2000, West Force as part of the International Forces in East Timor (INTERFET) comprised a number of Australian infantry battalions and the 1st Royal New